



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - March 27, 2003**

- ***In the West***, mild, breezy weather favors fieldwork in **California** and the **Southwest**, while cool weather prevails across the **Intermountain region**. Snow showers are diminishing across the **northern and central Rockies**.
- ***On the Plains***, warm, dry weather favors winter wheat development and spring fieldwork in **southern areas**, while rain and snow showers continue to boost soil moisture reserves across **central portions of the region**, especially in **Nebraska**.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, warm, dry weather prevails in the **Ohio Valley**, where winter wheat continues to break dormancy. Meanwhile, beneficial precipitation (rain and snow) is developing across the previously dry **northern and western Corn Belt**, although wind-driven snow and unusually cold conditions are increasing stress on livestock.
- ***In the South***, rain continues to slow fieldwork in the **southern Atlantic States**, but warm, dry weather favors an acceleration of spring planting operations from the **western Gulf Coast region to the Delta**.

**Outlook:** An intensifying storm system will track from the **central Plains** northeastward into the **Great Lakes States**, resulting in a heavy, late-season snowfall across the **upper Mississippi Valley**. Along the storm's trailing cold front, thunderstorms will develop from the **southern Plains to the middle Mississippi Valley**. The cold front will slowly push eastward by week's end, providing beneficial moisture to the **Corn Belt**. Meanwhile, wet weather will return to the **southern Atlantic region**, including **Florida**, as a disturbance emerges from the **Gulf of Mexico**. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 1-5 calls for above-normal precipitation in the **Pacific Northwest, northern Rockies and Plains, and upper Midwest**, while drier-than-normal conditions are forecast in the **southern Rockies, southern half of the Plains, Delta, and Southeast**. Above-normal temperatures are likely across the **southern one-third of the U.S.**, while cooler-than-normal weather is forecast across the **nation's northern tier**.

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